

Colleyville, for joint cooperation in jail and dispatch services. He created and implemented a career guide to improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the command staff and supervisors in a successful effort to secure a safer community.

Chief Finn has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his career. In 1993, Chief Finn was recognized as Southlake Firefighter of the Year, and in 1995 he received the Southlake DPS Director's Award for Excellence. As a member of the community, Chief Finn's leadership has been recognized by the Southlake Rotary Club as 2007 Rotarian of Year and Southlake Chamber of Commerce as 2008 Southlake Citizen of the Year.

Chief Finn has also served as a leader in many of the Southlake community organizations. He was the President of the Texas Association of Law Enforcement Planners from 2000–2001, Peer Assessor for the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies from 2000–2005, FBI National Academy Alumni Association member since 2001, Peer Assessor and Team Leader of the Center for Public Safety Excellence since 2006, Rotarian since 2004 and President from 2006–2007, Advisory Board Member for Southlake Art in the Square since 2008, Board of Trustee Member of Metroport Meals on Wheels since 2010, and Advisory Board Member of Kids Matter International since 2011.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Finn for his 24 years of public service to the City of Southlake.

HONORING STACIE AND KEN PODOS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Congregation Shaaray Israel of Monroe, NY, will honor Stacie and Ken Podos at their Journal Dinner Dance on June 12, 2011 for their long-time dedication to the congregation. Stacie and Ken are deeply involved in the synagogue and have held various leadership positions within the congregation.

Ken, a sales representative for J.K.J. Sales, Inc., currently serves as Chairman of Shaaray Israel's Board, and until recently was President of the congregation. Before his term as President, Ken began as financial secretary at Shaaray Israel, eventually moving on to serve as third, second and first Vice President. In addition to his work at the congregation, Ken is active on the Jewish Federation of Rockland's Board of Trustees.

Stacie, like her husband, is a leader in the congregation. She currently serves as chairperson of Shaaray Israel's Dedication Committee and is the incoming Vice-President of the Sisterhood. In addition to her work within the congregation, Stacie was heavily involved in the construction and design of the synagogue's new building. Trained at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Stacie is an interior designer by trade and helped decide on the materials and look of the synagogue.

Ken's and Stacie's commitment to the Jewish community extends beyond their congregation. They are actively involved in the Jewish

Community Center of Long Beach Island, and serve on various national Jewish organizations. Ken and Stacie have been honored with the Tree of Life Award from Israel Bonds and serve as Solidarity Founders and Keepers of the Gate for Hadassah. Stacie, who has been a member of Hadassah for 24 years, also holds a position on the organization's national board.

Ken and Stacie are proud parents of Jordan, Kimberly, and Jared and are expecting their first grandchild this September. They have made outstanding contributions to their community through their involvement and dedication to Jewish issues, and I congratulate them on this honor they so richly deserve.

WILLIAM R. THURSTON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to businessman, community philanthropist, and courageous WWII and Korean War hero, William R. Thurston.

While studying for a geology degree at Harvard University, Mr. Thurston trained to fly torpedo bombers for the Navy after Pearl Harbor. He was awarded the Air Medal 11 times and the Distinguished Flying Cross three times for his bravery while flying missions in the Pacific and over Japan.

Mr. Thurston put his geology degree to use, working for Sun Oil Co. between WWII and the Korean War, and for an independent oilman in Denver after the Korean War.

Mr. Thurston moved to Durango in 1977 with his wife Beatrice, where he became involved in the local arts scene and was an avid supporter of community theater. Lovers of live-music, the Thurstons founded Four corners Opera in 1980, and also became sponsors of Music in the Mountains, organizers for the Raise the Roof concert series, and participants in many other community endeavors.

Mr. Thurston's community involvement also included efforts to preserve and protect the rich history of the Four Corners area, and educate others about the region and its people. He supported the founding of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in 1983, with the hope of sharing his great enthusiasm for the area's remarkable past, precious artifacts, and cultural significance with others.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to the inspiring life of William R. Thurston. Colorado was fortunate to benefit from his tremendous spirit and lifetime of community service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ALPHONSE "AL" G. CONDON, JR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of Alphonse "Al" G. Condon, Jr.

The people of Northwest Florida have come to associate the name Al Condon with the

terms honest, hardworking and benevolent. For 45 years, Mr. Condon practiced law with the Emmanuel, Sheppard and Condon law firm where he demonstrated these traits while serving his community. Mr. Condon, born in Pensacola, graduated from St. Michael's Catholic School and Pensacola Catholic High School. After receiving a bachelor's degree, Cum Laude, from Vanderbilt University, he joined the United States Marine Corps to serve his country. He then pursued a law degree from the University of Florida College of Law and established himself as a premier trial lawyer.

Civil litigation was not just a practice for Mr. Condon. His passion for justice transpired from the courtroom into his daily activities as well and is evident in his service as a past President of the Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association, member of the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar and an emeritus member of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. Mr. Condon also served as special counsel to former Governor Bob Graham.

The impact Al Condon had on the Northwest Florida community extended far beyond his legal practice. A pivotal leader in the local community, Mr. Condon was actively involved with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Development Council of Pensacola Catholic High School, the YMCA, Pensacola Sports Association, and the City of Pensacola Recreation Board. The Catholic Church recognized Mr. Condon's lifetime service to the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee by awarding him the Medal of Honor.

Throughout his life, Al Condon exemplified the Catholic High School motto Pro Deo et Patria and United States Marine Corps motto Semper Fidelis in all he did. His legacy as a man of honor and sacrifice for his community will stand the test of time. Survived by his wife Judy of 48 years, five children, and nine grandchildren, he will forever be remembered by his family as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Al Condon, Jr. of Pensacola, Florida. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed by all of us.

HONORING PAUL HIRSCHON

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Hirschon, the Deputy Consul General of Israel to Florida and Puerto Rico for his many years of service to the South Florida Jewish Community, which is being honored this evening by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County.

Born in London, Mr. Hirschon spent his early life in South Africa and pursued degrees in accounting, law, and business before immigrating to Israel. Upon his move to Israel, Mr. Hirschon served in the Israel Defense Forces and worked in the Civil Service.

After a brief time back in England, Mr. Hirschon returned to Israel and spent ten years as a respected businessman in the high-tech sector, where he focused on developing lasting relationships with businesses throughout the Middle East. However, in 2004, Mr.

Hirschon returned to public service and joined the Foreign Service.

Mr. Hirschon was quickly promoted up the ranks of Israel's Foreign Ministry, working for the Consul General's Office in the Persian Gulf countries before being named the Deputy Consul General of Israel to Florida and Puerto Rico in 2008. It has been an honor working side by side with Mr. Hirschon as Israel and the United States continue advancing our shared core values of freedom, equality, and democracy.

I congratulate Mr. Hirschon for this great honor tonight, and I look forward to many more years of strong partnership with Mr. Hirschon.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. XXXX, "TO DESIGNATE THE FACILITY OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE LOCATED AT 14901 ADELFA DRIVE IN LA MIRADA, CALIFORNIA, AS THE 'WAYNE GRISHAM POST OFFICE'."

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. XXXX, the "To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14901 Adelfa Drive in La Mirada, California, as the 'Wayne Grisham Post Office'."

Mr. Wayne Grisham spent a significant portion of his life working for our country. He valiantly served our country as a fighter pilot during World War II and was held as a prisoner of war when his plane was shot down over Germany. Mr. Grisham was awarded the Purple Heart for his courageous service. After the war, an entrepreneurial spirit drove Mr. Grisham to open his own realty business in La Mirada, which he maintained for much of his life.

His dedication to the local community was truly remarkable. Mr. Grisham proudly served the City of La Mirada for over two decades, beginning in 1970 when he was elected to the city council. He continued his service to the community with his election to Congress in 1978 and the California State Assembly in 1984. He also lent his talents to the Peace Corps, serving as Director in Kenya in 1983.

A resident of Long Beach and later La Mirada, and graduate of Whittier College, Wayne Grisham was a longtime leader in the local community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me to honor the service and memory and of this true civic leader.

A TRIBUTE TO NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS PARK

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only to celebrate our nation's 235th birthday, but also to take note of another very special event taking place in the great state of

North Carolina. Today in Fayetteville, NC there will be a very special celebration for the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park.

Fayetteville, North Carolina has a rich history of supporting our troops and honoring those who choose to serve their country in such an admirable way. Across the state, our military institutions have led the way in protecting our country whether it be from Cherry Point Air Station to Charlotte Air National Guard from Camp Lejeune to U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, from Fort Bragg and Pope Army Air Field to New River Air Station and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, from the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point to the Oak Island and Wrightsville Beach Coast Guard Stations. North Carolina has opened its hearts and hands to support those who have made so many sacrifices for all of us.

Today's dedication of the Veterans Park is yet another way that North Carolina can show its appreciation to our men and women in uniform. Just as each generation has continued to protect our freedoms, this park exemplifies why North Carolina continues to hold the designation as the "Most Military Friendly State."

The NC Veterans Park will be a place of remembrance, and it further solidifies the commitment that North Carolina and its citizens have to the military and to all veterans. Today, our state affirms its gratitude for the men and women who have sacrificed in protecting the freedoms of this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to offer some words from General Douglas MacArthur, who understood the commitment of those who choose to serve and the honor that they bestow upon this great nation by doing so.

The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war. Therefore, let no man [be] entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation.

Veterans; the people of North Carolina dedicate this park in honor of your service. God Bless you all and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR ROBERT E. SMITH, SR. AND MOTHER GILDA J. SMITH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Robert E. Smith, Sr. and his wife, Mother Gilda J. Smith, as they retire from the White Cloud Empowerment Center Church of God in Christ after 45 years ministering to the people in White Cloud and Flint, Michigan.

Pastor Smith and his wife Gilda were married in 1960 after he completed a tour of duty in the United States Air Force. Gilda graduated from the Hurley Hospital School of Nursing the following year and Robert went to work at Delphi. During this time they sustained a lifetime of ministry, calling individuals to live in Christ Jesus. Their ministry has taken them throughout the country but the focus has been in the State of Michigan. Pastor Smith and Mother Gilda have walked the streets of sev-

eral communities giving prayer and encouragement to the people they meet. They have reached out to youth, the homeless, and the disaffected. As the pastor of the White Cloud Empowerment Center Church of God in Christ they have traveled every week from Flint to White Cloud to hold services and minister to the people of that community. In addition, Pastor Smith has served his jurisdiction as Assistant State Sunday School Superintendent, District Superintendent (on 3 occasions), State Sunday School Superintendent, Chairman of Auxiliaries-in-Ministry, and presently serves as Administrative Assistant to Bishop P.A. Brooks, Jurisdictional Prelate, who is also 1st Assistant presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ.

Their three sons are all ministers and they have five grandchildren. Retired from their jobs at Delphi and Hurley Medical Center, Pastor Smith and Mother Gilda continue to encourage and bring spiritual healing to their many "adopted children" throughout our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Pastor Robert E. Smith, Sr. and Mother Gilda Smith as they retire from ministry at the White Cloud Empowerment Center, Church of God in Christ and I pray they will find much joy as they enter this next phase of their lives.

HONORING SERGEANT CORNELIUS H. CHARLTON, "THE HERO OF HILL 543"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before you in continued celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean war in honor of SGT Cornelius H. Charlton, the Hero of Hill 543. On Saturday, June 11, the Cornelius H. Charlton Memorial Society and the 369th Historical Society celebrate the bravery of Sergeant Charlton by unveiling an exhibition in his honor highlighting his historic exploits on Hill 543, a major battle during the Korean war.

SGT Cornelius H. Charlton is one of 87 African-American Medal of Honor recipients. He was born on July 24, 1929, in East Gulf, West Virginia to Van and Clara Charlton. In 1944, the family moved to the Bronx, New York. Cornelius attended James Monroe High School. After graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946. Initially assigned to an engineering group, Sergeant Charlton requested a transfer to an infantry unit and was placed in Company C of the 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. The 24th Infantry, nicknamed the "Buffalo Soldiers," was the United States Army's last, all-Black, segregated regiment to engage in combat. Sergeant Major Charlton volunteered for frontline duty for this rear-echelon outfit.

On June 2, 1951, near the village of Chipori, northeast of Seoul, Korea, Sergeant Charlton's platoon encountered heavy resistance while attempting to take Hill 543. Taking command after his platoon leader was wounded, he regrouped his men and led an assault against the hill. Wounded by a grenade, Sergeant Charlton refused medical attention and continued to lead the charge. He single